THE GENUS HELIOPSIS: DEVELOPMENT OF VARIETIES AND THEIR USE IN THE EUROPEAN GARDENS AFTER THE MID 19TH CENTURY

Jiří Uher

Abstract


This review summarizes data on the development of varieties in historic gardens of the once very popular Ox-eyes (Heliopsis Pers., Asteraceae: Zinniinae) after the mid 19th century, with regard to the development of varietal assortments in the periods corresponding to the most important architectural styles and to their fluctuating popularity. Old varietal assortments, usually derived from large-flowered H. helianthoides var. scabra, now rapidly disappear and the oldest varieties, including the once famous Lemoine's selections, are virtually inaccessible. Until recently the most propagated Götz's and Förster's varieties also disappear and are replaced by modern, relatively small-flowered selections delivered from H. helianthoides var. helianthoides or patent protected variegated varieties. Neither of these groups, however, is applicable to the restoration of historic gardens. Tables show data on the origin of about eighty both still cultivated and vanished varieties.

Keywords: Ox eye, Heliopsis, cultivated taxa, varieties, historical overview

INTRODUCTION

The genus Heliopsis, cultivated at least in its smooth-leaves variety since late Baroque era, seems to be inextricably linked with old gardens but its present rich varietal selections, however, are not nearly as old – the first varieties appear at the late nineteenth century and varieties offered today even half a century later. It must be based not only in the restoration and maintenance of the classical historic gardens before 1900 but also the relatively modern gardens which were established or rebuilt during the interwar and even post-war period, if they subject to the Act on Stage Heritage Preservation. In cases when it is not possible to implicitly specify the original composition of plant inventory, we have no choice but to detailed inventory the records of composition of period varieties and to adapt the choice of plants to this inventory. To facilitate the selection of suitable varieties for historical periods, roughly equivalent to the most important architectural styles, the data on development and composition of period perennial varieties are now concentrated and evaluated within the project “Landscape architecture's methods and tools for spatial development” and the genus Heliopsis varieties here represent another theme in a series of such reports.

Introduction to the Botanical Issue of the Cultivated Taxon

The genus Heliopsis, falling in subtribe Zinniinae also including some other genera which are popular in gardens (Urbatsch et al., 2000), contains thirteen (Fisher, 1957) to fifteen (García-Chávez et al., 2004) species, both perennial and annual; yet other species add Ramirez-Noya et al. (2011). Only three species, however, grow north of the Mexican border (García-Chávez et al., 2004) and the only
coincidently type species of the genus penetrates far north to southeastern Canadian provinces and is reliably winter-hardy in central European climatic conditions.

_Heliopsis helianthoides_ (L.) Sweet shoots from short procumbent rhizomes clumps of height up to 1.5 m, straw-yellow or reddish-brown stems with lanceolate to ovate peaked leaves with irregularly dentate margins. Composite flowerheads of the size of children’s hand consist of 10–18 (in case of garden varieties usually more) golden-yellow ray florets and dozens of greenish yellow (sometime chestnut-coloured) disk florets with ovaries maturing to square, smooth and often pappus-free achenes. It grows on the prairies, wet grasslands, to the square, smooth and often pappus-free composites of composite flowerheads and smooth leaves (Small, 1903) were still delimited var. _solidaginoides_ (L.) Fernald, upright with composite flowerheads yet noticeably smaller, and similar, but overall slender and procumbent var. _minor_ (Hook.) Farw. (Fernald, 1937). The latter was once ascribed status of peculiar species (Small, 1903), while today is connected with similarly slender and in our climatic conditions probably not quite winter-hardy _Heliopsis gracilis_ (Gray) Nuttall of the Mexican-American border (Fisher, 1957; Smith, 2006) – but even this had been attributed to the nonnatural type species (Torrey & Gray, 1841). All recognized subtaxa readily cross themselves wherever their regions overlap (Fisher, 1958), hybrids retain their unimpaired fertility and produce a number of plants with a wide range of temporary characters. Aftermaths of complex taxonomic relationships have long persisted in older horticultural literature where we can find _H. helianthoides_ cultivated not only under the names _H. scabra_ or _H. laevia_ (Robinson, 1878; Fletcher, 1900; Arnott, 1903) but also _H. major_ (as opposed to only rarely propagated _H. minor_). Large-flowered selections with almost orange composite flowerheads used to be also offered as _H. pitcherianna_ (Dreer, 1894; Jekyll, 1899; Arnott, 1905; Molyneux, 1905), _H. superba_ or _H. patula_ (Jekyll, 1898 and 1899; Schmidt, 1909; Kelway, 1913; Koon, 1940) and also under other names spread by nurseries themselves. Others (Abel, 1899; Fletcher, 1900; Keeler, 1910; Kelway, 1913, etc.), however, similar derivations soon again reduced to a mere garden varieties and the status of cultivars is largely ascribed to them also currently.

### Varieties in the Years 1890–1920

Although both cultivated varieties were verifiably cultivated before 1824 – and the smooth-leaves type variety (at that time as _Silphium solidaginoides_ L. or _Buphthalmum helianthoides_ L’Hér.) perhaps even a century earlier (Loudon, 1832; Curtis, 1834) – variations were not long detected from reseedings. The fi rst garden varieties were offered only during

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Origin/the earliest mention*</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘B. Ladhams’</td>
<td>Ladhams/Molyneux*</td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Compacta Floribunda’</td>
<td>Jancke*</td>
<td>1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Ernest Ladhams’</td>
<td>Elwanger &amp; Barry</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Excelsa’</td>
<td>Lemoine/Wallis*</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Flore Pleno’</td>
<td>Lemoine</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Major’</td>
<td>Ladhams/Keeler/Arnott*</td>
<td>1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Patula’</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Son</td>
<td>1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Pitcherianna’</td>
<td>Pitcher &amp; Manda</td>
<td>1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Pitcherianna Semiplena’</td>
<td>Dreer*</td>
<td>1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Soleil d’Or’</td>
<td>Gerbeaux/Keeler*</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Superba’</td>
<td>Wolley-Dod/Arnott*</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Tom Thumb’</td>
<td>Barr/Reid*</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Zinniaeflora’</td>
<td>Lemoine/Grignan*</td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Historical overview of Heliopsis varieties

I: _Heliopsis helianthoides_ agg., varieties in 1890–1920

- **Variety** | **Origin/the earliest mention** | **Characteristics** |
- ‘B. Ladhams’ | Ladhams/Molyneux* | 1896 | 1.2, large heads, soft orange |
- ‘Compacta Floribunda’ | Jancke* | 1911 | 0.8, large heads, dark yellow |
- ‘Ernest Ladhams’ | Elwanger & Barry | 1914 | 1.0, golden yellow |
- ‘Excelsa’ | Lemoine/Wallis* | 1913 | 1.4, semidouble, dark yellow |
- ‘Flore Pleno’ | Lemoine | 1909 | nearly double, golden yellow |
- ‘Major’ | Ladhams/Keeler/Arnott* | 1893 | 1.0, yellow-orange, late |
- ‘Patula’ | Paul & Son | 1893 | 1.0, large heads, orange-yellow |
- ‘Pitcherianna’ | Pitcher & Manda | 1893 | 1.0, large heads, bright orange |
- ‘Pitcherianna Semiplena’ | Dreer* | 1906 | semidouble, orange-yellow |
- ‘Soleil d’Or’ | Gerbeaux/Keeler* | 1913 | 1.4, semidouble, golden yellow |
- ‘Superba’ | Wolley-Dod/Arnott* | 1905 | deep orange |
- ‘Tom Thumb’ | Barr/Reid* | 1905 | dwarf, deep orange |
- ‘Zinniaeflora’ | Lemoine/Grignan* | 1908 | 1.2, nearly double, orange-yellow |
the year 1893; while Burrell & Co. was still awarded at the London exhibitions for old *H. scabra*, overseas already in spring of that year Pitcher and Manda offered their "*H. Pitcheriana*", distributed afterwards also by other nurseries (Stiles, 1893; Dreer, 1894). Fourteen weeks later Dysart exhibits in the Chiswick garden "*H. patula*" (Sage, 1893) and in autumn Ladhams introduces "*H. scabra major*" in Westminster, which was awarded the Award of Merit in the same year (Barr, 1893). New varieties, distributed mainly in English gardens by Prichard, Wolley-Dod and Ladhams, provoked numerous discussions in the press (Egan, 1895; Jordan, 1895; Anderson, 1896; Marron, 1896; Hatfield, 1897; Keller, 1897; Watson, 1897; Abel, 1899; Fletcher, 1900; Arnott, 1898, 1899, 1903 and 1905; Reid, 1905; Molyneux, 1905, etc.), which led to a revival of interest in this culture and to the efforts on the selection of new varieties. Even in 1896 were introduced equally discussed 'B. Ladhams' (Bedford, 1896; Masters 1896; Cook, 1901; Arnott, 1903; Molyneux, 1901 and 1903; Tallack, 1903), within the next ten years Wolley-Dod registered bright orange *H. scabra* 'Superba' (Arnott, 1905; Molyneux, 1905) and Barr registered compact growing 'Tom Thumb' (Reid, 1905). Overseas is approximately in the same time introduced to the market *Pitcheriana Semiplena*, the first variety with half-full, though not so large composite flowerheads (Dreer, 1905; Greensmith, 1905); however, it ceased to be offered relatively soon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Origin/the earliest mention*</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Aurata'</td>
<td>Domin*</td>
<td>1.0, golden yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Compta Grandiflora'</td>
<td>Moser</td>
<td>1.0, bright yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Dauergold'</td>
<td>Stote*</td>
<td>1.0, nearly double, yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Formosa'</td>
<td>Lemoine/Join*</td>
<td>1.0, semidouble, chrome yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Gigantea'</td>
<td>Lemoine/Hensen*</td>
<td>1.5, semidouble yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Golden Dream'</td>
<td>Turner</td>
<td>invalid name ('Orange King')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldgefi eder'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1.2, double, dark golden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldgrüner'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>0.8, double, pale yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Golden Ray'</td>
<td>Conard-Pyle</td>
<td>yellow, crimped rays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldene Sonne'</td>
<td>Heinemann</td>
<td>1.2, golden yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Grandiflora'</td>
<td>Silva-Tarouca*</td>
<td>large heads, deep orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Gratissima'</td>
<td>Lemoine/Foerster*</td>
<td>0.8, floriferous, pale yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Hercules'</td>
<td>Olmsted*</td>
<td>identical to 'Major'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Hohlspiegel'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1.2, semidouble, golden yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Imbricata'</td>
<td>Lemoine/Foerster*</td>
<td>1.0, nearly double, dark golden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Incomparabilis'</td>
<td>Lemoine</td>
<td>1.0, nearly double, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Lactiflora'</td>
<td>Lemoine/Foerster*</td>
<td>golden yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Ligulosa'</td>
<td>Gerbeaux</td>
<td>semidouble/nearly double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Magnifica'</td>
<td>Boom &amp; Ruys*</td>
<td>1.5, golden yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Neue Hybriden'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1.0, variable, yellow-orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Orange King'</td>
<td>Turner</td>
<td>deep orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Plenissima'</td>
<td>Lemoine/Armitage*</td>
<td>golden yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Præstans'</td>
<td>Silva Tarouca*</td>
<td>1.6, semidouble, chrome yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Primaballerina'</td>
<td>Gebr. Schütz</td>
<td>1.0, dark golden-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Slunce'</td>
<td>Gebr. Schütz</td>
<td>1.4, semidouble, dark golden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sommersonne' ('Zomerzon')</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1.2, poloplná temně žlutá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sonnenschild'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1.4, double, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Spectabilis'</td>
<td>Lemoine</td>
<td>1.0, double, chrome yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Spitzentänzerin'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1.4, semidouble, dark yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Věčné zlato'</td>
<td>Gebr. Schütz</td>
<td>1.4, golden yellow, remontant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Variegata'</td>
<td>Slottsskog</td>
<td>yellow, creamy-varigated foliage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Vitellina'</td>
<td>Lemoine</td>
<td>1.0, double, golden yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### III: *Heliopsis helianthoides* agg. varieties in 1950–1980

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Origin/the earliest mention*</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Ballerina'</td>
<td>Clausen*</td>
<td>1969 identical to 'Spitzentänzerin'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Ballet Dancer'</td>
<td>RHS*</td>
<td>1964 identical to 'Spitzentänzerin'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Conceave Mirror'</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>1971 identical to 'Hohlspiegel'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Desert King'</td>
<td>Clausen*</td>
<td>1969 identical to 'Wüstenkönig'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldenkandelaber'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>? name only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Golden Plume'</td>
<td>Armitage*</td>
<td>1989 identical to 'Goldgefeider'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldkumpen'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>? name only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldranunkel'</td>
<td>Lintner</td>
<td>1959 1.0, semidouble yellow, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Gold Everhart'</td>
<td>Fisher*</td>
<td>1958 semidouble yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Jupiter'</td>
<td>Götz/Hensen*</td>
<td>1972 1.6, large heads, orange, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Karat'</td>
<td>Götz</td>
<td>1956 1.4, large heads, deep yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Lenhoff'</td>
<td>Lintner*</td>
<td>1974 corrupted 'Lohfelden'?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Light of Loddon'</td>
<td>Carlile/Armitage*</td>
<td>1961 1.4, semidouble, rich yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Lohfelden'</td>
<td>Klose</td>
<td>1971 1.4, semidouble, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Mars'</td>
<td>Götz/Hensen*</td>
<td>1972 1.4, semidouble, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Orion'</td>
<td>Götz/Hensen*</td>
<td>1972 1.4, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Venus'</td>
<td>Fuss</td>
<td>1979 1.4, large heads, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Wüstenkönig'</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>1964 1.2, semidouble, golden-yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IV: *Heliopsis helianthoides* agg. varieties after 1980

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Origin/the earliest mention*</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Asahi'</td>
<td>Hoffmann*</td>
<td>2005 0.8, small pompon-flowered, gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Benzinggold'</td>
<td>Benzing/Laar*</td>
<td>1995 1.6, semidouble, orange-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Bressingham Dubloon'</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>1989/1997 1.4, semidouble, golden-yellow +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Double Sunstruck'</td>
<td>Ball</td>
<td>2014 0.6, double, yellow, variegated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldball'</td>
<td>Götz/Hensen*</td>
<td>1983 0.8, double, golden-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Goldspitze'</td>
<td>Armitage*</td>
<td>1989 1.0, small golden-yellow heads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Golden Double Hybrids'</td>
<td>Thomp.&amp; Morgan</td>
<td>1.2, semidouble, double, from seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Kevin's Joy'</td>
<td>Bidwell/Marsh*</td>
<td>2008 0.8, double, gold margined leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Kokarde'</td>
<td>Bengtsson*</td>
<td>1989 1.0, semidouble, golden-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Lorraine Sunshine'</td>
<td>Hanson</td>
<td>1997 0.8, yellow, leaves varieg.cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Midwest Dreams'</td>
<td>Hoffman*</td>
<td>2000 small heads, deep yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Prairie Sunset'</td>
<td>Diboll</td>
<td>1994/2002 1.4, reddish yellow, disc maroon +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sommerzwerg'</td>
<td>Foerster/Näser</td>
<td>1987 0.6, golden-yellow, compact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sonnergut'</td>
<td>Klose/Laar*</td>
<td>1995 1.4, semidouble, large heads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sonnenstrahl'</td>
<td>Klose/Laar*</td>
<td>1995 1.5, yellow-orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sonnenzwerg'</td>
<td>RHS</td>
<td>1998 corrupted 'Sommerzwerg'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sunstruck'</td>
<td>Knosher</td>
<td>2013 0.6, gold-yellow, white variegated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Summer Green'</td>
<td>Übelhart/Jelitto</td>
<td>2007/2011 1.2, yellow, red disc, variegated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Summer Nights'</td>
<td>North Creek</td>
<td>2002 1.4, orange yellow, red disc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Summer Pink'</td>
<td>Übelhart/Jelitto</td>
<td>2007/2011 1.2, yellow, rose/white variegated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Summer Stripe'</td>
<td>Übelhart/Jelitto</td>
<td>2007/2011 1.2, yellow, rose/white variegated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Sunburst'</td>
<td>Pilon*</td>
<td>2014 0.8, gold-yellow, white variegated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Teteran'</td>
<td>Sieber*</td>
<td>1983 name only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Tuscan Sun'</td>
<td>Hanson</td>
<td>1998/2006 0.6, golden yellow, early, compact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Waterperry Gold'</td>
<td>Havergal/RHS*</td>
<td>1998 1.2, semidouble, lemon-yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Winter Sun'</td>
<td>Hishtil</td>
<td>2012 1.0, gold-yellow, white variegated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
without catching on in European gardens. Famous Lorraine plant breeder Lemoine underpinned clones with strikingly multiplied ray florets among large-flowered asperifoliate genotypes: he introduced them as “H. scabra zinniaefl ora” (Grignan, 1908) and “H. scabra flore pleno” (Stewart, 1909) and immediately took them to the series of excellent double-flowered varieties (Tab. I). His new varieties proved successful mainly in the thirties of the 20th century (Foerster, 1922; Bergmans, 1924; Fulín, 1925; Vaněk, 1925) – of them just ‘Zinniaefl ora’ together with ‘Incomparabilis’, ‘Gratissima’ and ‘Excelsa’ belonged to the most propagated varieties still in the fifties of the 20th century.

Varieties in the Years 1920–1950

In gardens, softening the plain contours of functionalist architecture, are still very popular especially above mentioned double-flowered cultivars of Lemoine, whose nursery offerings since 1927 reportedly 23 varieties (Hensen, 1982); the most commonly grown varieties at that time mentioned Foerster (1920), Silva-Tarouca & Schneider (1922), Bonstedt (1932) and exceptionally wide offerings of leading perennial nurseries such as Goos & Koenemann in Niedrwalluf, Karl Foerster Gärtnerei in Postdam-Bornim, Göteborgs Trädgårdsförening, in the Czechoslovakia particularly Koniferové školky in Žehušice, Bratří Schützové in Olomučany or Spolková zahrada Dendrologické společnosti Průhonice (Appendix 2). The advantages of shortly forgotten “H. scabra major” were rediscovered, but this time erroneously ascribed to Nonne & Hoepker nursery in Ahrensburg (Hahn, 1929). The first variegated variety was recorded in already mentioned nurseries in Göteborg in 1926, but it soon disappeared from offerings (Oskarsson, 2003). At the end of the thirties, the plant breeder Foerster (1938, 1940, 1942) from Bornim introduced the first of his famous varieties and his ‘Sommersonne’, ‘Sppitzentänzerin’ or ‘Goldgrünerz’ (like ‘Neue Hybriden’ cultivated from reseedings) later successfully competed to the Lemony’s varieties (see also offerings of nurseries of Foerster, 1938; Kidery & Preissner, 1942) – despite the number of remarkable new varieties, registered in subsequent periods, these cultivars belong to the most propagated cultivars even by today’s growers. Probably in the same time, old varieties ‘Pitcheriana’ and ‘Grandiflora’ disappeared from offerings and with them for a long time also all genotypes derived from smooth-leaves variety cultivated at that time. Old varieties of Lemoine still dominated in perennial nursery offerings for a long time in the war and postwar years (see offerings of nursery catalogues at that time in the appendix – Dreer, 1934 and 1940; Gilbert, 1942; Vejtasa, 1936 and 1942; Frikart, 1944; Koniferové školky in Žehušice, 1936, 1940, 1946, 1948 and 1966; Wackernagel, 1952, etc.).

Varieties in the Years 1950–1980

Although in many perennial nurseries’ offerings still prevailed old varieties of Lemoine (Koniferové školky in Žehušice still in 1968), probably from the mid-sixties in gardens of socialist realism and postmodernism were increasingly applied new Foerster’s varieties, now introduced by nurseries in Bornim (Machala et al., 1964; Clausen, 1974; Plömacher & Hagemann, 1975). In gardens of the Western Bloc are these varieties distributed particularly by Klose, Arends and Pagels together with newly registered varieties of plant breeder Götz from Schiltach. Varieties ‘Goldgrünerz’ and ‘Karat’ (Clausen, 1974), ‘Sonnenschild’ and ‘Mars’ (Hensen, 1982 and 1983), but also ‘Sppitzentänzerin’, ‘Hohlspiegel’, ‘Goldranunkel’ and old ‘Patula’ belonged to the best evaluated in this period. However, as of the date of their introduction, as with many other varieties of both plant breeders, authors’ views are often different (Tab. V). It seems to be better adhere to the earlier data from German overviews (Sieber, 1990; Götz, 2011) – i.e. Foerster’s ‘Sppitzentänzerin’ is offered by Kidery & Preissner nursery in Zatec since 1942 and by Foerster himself already since 1940 (but not in 1938). Similarly, ‘Sonnenschild’ and ‘Goldgrünerz’ varieties were offered by nurseries in Bornim significantly earlier than were dated in overviews from Virum (Clausen, 1974 and 1975) or Wageningen (Hensen, 1982 and 1983), based probably on the later Foerster’s overview of new cultivars from Bornim in 1949.

Varieties After 1980

Until the end of the century prevailed in offerings of nurseries Foerster’s and Götz’s varieties mentioned above, upright growing, large-flowered and mostly derived from var. scabra not
overseas newly emerging ‘Ballet Dancer’, ‘Toe Dancer’, ‘Ballerina’, ‘Golden Plume’, ‘Desert King’ or ‘Concave Mirror’ (Bloom, 1971; Phillips & Rix, 1991; Armitage, 1997) were more than invalid new names for older Foerster’s ‘Spitzentänzerin’, ‘Goldgefi eder’, ‘Wüstenkönig’ and ‘Hohlspiegel’. Newer German ‘Benzinggold’, ‘Sonnenenglut’ and ‘Sonnenstrahl’, or English ‘Watterperry Gold’ and ‘Light of Loddon’ competed with varieties from Bornim only tentatively (see catalogue offerings of perennial nurseries in appendix) – but besides proved varieties ‘Spitzentänzerin’ and ‘Goldgefi eder’, British Royal Horticultural Society awarded prestigious Award of Garden Merit to just this new clones (Cubey & Grant, 2004). These include markedly squeezed ‘Tuscan Sun’ (Hanson & Zlesak, 2008; Zlesak & Hanson, 2008, Ernest, 2009) and ‘Sunstruck’ (Klopmeyer, 2014), comparable perhaps only with rediscovered ‘Sommerzwerg’ from plant breeders in Bornim. With introduction of more patulous ‘Prairie Sunset’ (Diboll, 2003), ‘Summer Nights’, or Anemone-like ‘Asahi’ grew unstoppably popularity of relatively small-flowered varieties, derived from populations of almost forgotten var. helianthoides: they seemed to be less long-lived, but they developed faster and varieties grew up from reseedings often flowered already in the year of sowing (Pilon, 2013) and newly are available in a range of variegated clones (Hanson, 1998; Uebelhart, 2013 A-C).

CONCLUSION

Pre-war varieties besides old ‘Pitcheriana’ and ‘E. Ladhams’ defi nitely dominated Lemoine’s varieties ‘Zinniaefl ora’, ‘Gratissima’, ‘Imbricata’ and ‘Excelsa’, supplemented in post-war years long just rediscovered (and then to Lemoine often wrongly attributed) ‘Patula’. But under the strong competition of later varieties from Bornim and Schiltach, all the varieties disappeared from offerings of perennial catalogues in the last quarter century; rare exception is still achievable ‘Patula’, however by Dutch authors mistaken for strikingly similar ‘Spitzentänzerin’, which can in case of emergency replace the former variety. Of the oldest varieties from Bornim, just ‘Spitzentänzerin’ together with ‘Sommersonne’ and ‘Goldgrünscher’ till now rank among the most frequently propagated, and thus readily available cultivars. These can be well applied when restoring of historic gardens from war and post-war years, although they were only rarely offered at that time. Regarding the varieties of gardens from postmodernism period, besides till now highly appreciated ‘Venus’ is quite easily available also the range of later varieties from Bornim and Schiltach, such as ‘Goldgefi eder’, ‘Hohlspiegel’, ‘Karat’ or ‘Mars’. Besides ‘Venus’, the most widely offered ‘Summer Nights’ may perhaps in need replace lost ‘Pitcheriana’. On the other side, small pompon-flowered ‘Asahi’ and variegated ‘Lorraine Sunshine’ (as well as other variegated varieties) are quite a different character and could not be recommended for use in historic gardens.

SUMMARY

This review summarizes data on the development of garden varieties of the genus Heliopsis, a perennial species that was popular in historical gardens after the mid 19th century, with regards to the development of varieties in the periods corresponding to the most important architectural styles and to their fluctuating popularity. Before the end of the 19th century there were varieties ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Patula’, ‘B. Ladhams’ a ‘Scabra Major’, which led to an increased interest in this perennial and efforts to further breeding. V. Lemoine presents a number of semi-double varieties until 1920, from which ‘Zinniaefl ora’, ‘Incomparabilis’, ‘Excelsa’ a ‘Grandiflora’ predominated in catalogues until the 50th of the last century. Before 1950, however, presents Foerster his fi rst varieties: ‘Sommersone’, ‘Spitzentänzerin’, or ‘Goldgrünscher’ are highly valued to this time. In the 60th, Foerster gives other varieties, e.g. ‘Sonnenschild’, and ‘Hohlspiegel’. Until the end of the last century Foerster’s varieties predominate still in gardens, beside the new Götz’s varieties ‘Jupiter’, ‘Mars’, ‘Orion’, ‘Karat’, and a large-flowered ‘Venus’. Today, new varieties such as ‘Benzinggold’, ‘Sonnenstrahl’, ‘Light of Loddon’ are still a little cultivated, however, the small-flowered varieties ‘Prairie Sunset’ and ‘Summer Nights’ grow rapidly in popularity, as well as the variegated ‘Lorraine Sunshine’, ‘Sunstruck’, ‘Sunburst’. Neither of these groups, however, is applicable to the restoration of historic gardens. Old large-flowered varieties now rapidly disappear and the oldest varieties, including the once famous Lemoine’s selections, are virtually inaccessible.

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REFERENCES


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Appendix 1: *Heliopsis* Offered by Perennial Nurseries in the Years 1890–1920

**1890–1905**

Wm. C. Beckert (Allegheny): ‘Pitcheriana’
Cottage Gardens (Queens, New York): ‘Pitcheriana’
Johnson & Stokes (Philadelphia): ‘Pitcheriana’
W. W. Rawson & Co., (Boston): ‘Pitcheriana’

**1905–1920**

Currie Brothers Co. (Milwaukee): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Pitcheriana Semiplena’
Edward J. Taylor (Southport): ‘Major’
Ellsworth Brown & Co., (Seabrook): ‘Pitcheriana’
Elwanger & Barry, Mt Hope Nurseries (Rochester): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Major’, ‘Ernest Ladham’s’
Lovett’s Nursery (Little Silver): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Pitcheriana Semiplena’, ‘Excelsa’
Martin Fulín (Královské Vinohrady u Prahy): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Tracheliaefolia’
Palisades Nursery (Sparkill): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Semiplena’, ‘Major’
Pierson (Cromwell): ‘Pitcheriana’
W. W. Barnard Co., (Madison): ‘Zinniaeflora’

Appendix 2: *Heliopsis* Offered by Perennial Nurseries in the Years 1920–1950

**1920–1935**

F. H. Horsford (Charlotte, Vermont): ‘Pitcheriana’
George D. Aiken (Putney-Vermont): ‘Zinniaeflora’
Hovey & Co., (Boston): ‘Pitcheriana’
J. C. Vaughan Inc. (Chicago & New York): ‘Gratissima’
Kidery & Preissner (Zatec): fl.pl. ‘Excelsa’
Lovett’s Nursery (Little Silver): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Excelsa’
Tingle Nursery (Pittsville): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Zinniaeflora’

**1935–1950**

Carl Frikart Gross-Staudenkulturen (Stäfa): ‘Eminens’, ‘Patula’
Gebr. Schützové (Olomučany): ‘Slunce’, ‘Věčné Zlato’
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J. Mann & Co. (Baltimore): ‘Lemoine Strain’
Lott’s Nursery (Little Silver): ‘Pitcheriana’, ‘Excelsa’

Appendix 3: Heliopsis Offered by Perennial Nurseries in the Years 1850–1980

1950–1965
Koniferové školky Žehušice: ‘Formosa’, ‘Eminens’
J. C. Vaughan Inc. (Chicago & New York): ‘Gratissima’

1965–1980
Koniferové školky Žehušice: ‘Formosa’, ‘Eminens’

Appendix 4: Heliopsis Offered by Perennial Nurseries After 1980

1980–1995
Bremermann Staudenkulturen (Wiefelstede): ‘Sommersonne’
WC. Th. van Bergenhenegouwen BV (Huis ter Heide): ‘Hohlspiegel’, ‘Patula’, ‘Spitzenzänzerin’
Sunny Border Nurseries (Kensington): ‘Sommersonne’, ‘Sommersonne’, ‘New Hybrid’

1995–2010+
Beth Chatto Gardens (Colchester): ‘Hohlspiegel’
Country Arbor Nursery (Urbana): ‘Sommersonne’, ‘Venus’
Cottswold Garden (Evesham): ‘Summer Pink’, ‘Lorraine Sunshine’
Darwin Plants (Hillegom): ‘Asahi’, ‘Prairie Sunset’
De Vroomen (Russell): ‘Asahi’, ‘Venus’
E. Koch Staudenkulturen (Erfurt): ‘Sommersonne’, ‘Venus’
Florens B. V. (Zwijndrecht): ‘Sommersonne’

Gärtnerei Simon (Marktheidenfeld): ‘Karat’
Georg Arents Staudengärtner, (Wuppertal-Ronsdorf): ‘Karat’, ‘Summer Nights’
Hagemann Staudenkulturen (Lanthenagen): ‘Karat’, ‘Sommersonne’, ‘Spitzentänzerin’

Jelitto Stauden (Schwarmstedt): ‘Neue Hybriden’, ‘Summer Nights’, ‘Sommersonne’
E. Jantzen Stauden & Kräuter (Tübingen): ‘Venus’, ‘Summer Nights’

Lautrejardin, X. Alleman (Cormérod): ‘Spitzentänzerin’, ‘Patula’
Lost Horizons (Acton, Ontario): ‘Sommersonne’, ‘Goldgrünherz’


Kurt Bluemel Inc. (Baldwin): ‘Karat’, ‘Summer Sun’

Osnabücker Staudenkulturen, P. & B. zur Linden (Bissendorf-Linne): ‘Venus’
Okrasné školy Litomyšl: ‘Lenhof’, ‘Orion’
Pereny, R. Pešičková (Hlavenec): ‘Mars’, ‘Sommersonne’


Stonyford Cottage Nursery, Cuddington: ‘Lorraine Sunshine’, ‘Prairie Sunset’

White Flower Farm (Litchfi eld): ‘Summer Sun’, ‘Venus’


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1: *Heliopsis 'Asahi'*

2: *Heliopsis 'Bressingham Doublon'*

3: *Heliopsis 'Goldgefieder'*

4: *Heliopsis 'Goldgrünherz'*
5: Heliopsis 'Goldranunkel'
6: Heliopsis 'Hohlspiegel'
7: Heliopsis 'Karat'
8: Heliopsis 'Lohfelder'
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9: *Heliopsis 'Orion'*

10: *Heliopsis 'Patula'*

11: *Heliopsis 'Prairie Sunset'*

12: *Heliopsis 'Sommersonne'*
13: *Heliopsis* ‘Spitzentänzerin’

14: *Heliopsis* ‘Summer Nights’

15: *Heliopsis* ‘Venus’

16: *Heliopsis* ‘Wüstenkönig’

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